

**MINUTES OF THE
JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008
Room W135, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

Members Present: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair
 Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair
 Sen. Patricia W. Jones
 Sen. Kevin T. VanTassell
 Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
 Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke
 Rep. Gage Froerer
 Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
 Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
 Rep. Karen W. Morgan
 Rep. Phil Riesen
 Rep. Carl Wimmer

Members Absent: Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
 Rep. Brad L. Dee
 Rep. Aaron Tilton

Staff Present: Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
 Patrick Lee, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
 Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Larry Shumway, Deputy Superintendent, USOE
 Michael Kjar, GOPB Analyst, GOPB
 Judy Park, USOE

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the Subcommittee minutes.

Co-Chair Last called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. **Introduction and Announcements** - Co-Chair Last stated that introductions were not necessary because the Subcommittee membership is the same as last year, and there were no announcements.
2. **Minutes (If Available)** - There were no minutes to approve at this time.
3. **Follow-up on January 16, 2008, Meeting** - Follow-up was discussed on the Textbook Alignment Reports. This agenda item was deferred to this meeting. Deputy Superintendent Shumway of the USOE stated that initially there was some confusion as

to the intent of the language contained in the bill. Once that was resolved and the RP was issued by State Purchasing and all interested contractors had submitted bids, it became clear that additional information was needed. This request was made to all interested contractors and bidders. All bids have now been returned with the requested information. According to State Purchasing, these bids will be awarded sometime within the next 30 days. Co-Chair Stephenson stated that the statute prohibited purchase of textbooks without the alignment. At the time Rep. Froerer's bill was passed, time estimates were of three to six months, and that the selection would be completed before June 30. Co-Chair Stephenson asked the question of how the districts have purchased textbooks without them being aligned. Deputy Superintendent Shumway stated that the statute states that districts may not purchase primary instructional materials unless the instructional materials provider contracts with an independent party to evaluate and map the alignment. He stated that one of the challenges here is that in the Statute it does not direct the State Office of Education to approve or select whom those independent parties may be. It indicates that it would be a contract between the instructional materials provider and the independent party. Now the State Office of Education is in the process of approving one independent provider in the interim. Co-Chair Stephenson stated that as he understands it, the USOE will be looking at the bids not only to see who is competent in making the alignments to the core curriculum but also if one is found who is able to provide a searchable database and those added value components that will assist teachers to utilize the alignments more effectively to compare textbooks. This will be useful and weighted heavier for those who can provide for those vendors who can perform these functions. Co-Chair Stephenson made the suggestion for him and Rep. Froerer to talk with the State Office of Education and the State Purchaser about those expectations and make sure that as the process goes forward, that everyone will know what was expected when the legislation was sponsored. Rep. Froerer stated that a meeting would be advantageous. Co-Chair Last also suggested that there be some communication between the State Office of Education, State Purchasing, and legislators so that all are up-to-date on the process.

4. **Budget Overview and Fiscal Note Summary** - Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, referred to a handout entitled, *2008 General Session*, which gives a schedule for the next seven meetings of this Subcommittee. Mr. Leishman indicated that if there are any items that are of interest and need to be discussed, the Subcommittee members can speak with the Co-Chairs or the Analysts, and that item will be scheduled on the agenda. The second handout discussed and entitled, *Budget Brief - Public Education Budget Overview*, is designed to give an overview of the entire education budget. Mr. Leishman stated that the FY 2009 base budget for Public Education nears \$3.4 billion. Within the next seven meetings, the Subcommittee will evaluate by line item the entire budget. Page 2 of this handout is a historical comparison of student enrollment. Next Fall, it is anticipated that just over 550,500 students will enroll in public schools. This is a 2.4

percent increase over this last Fall. There is also a table that projects enrollment to 2017. Mr. Leishman also referred to a handout entitled, *Subcommittee Base Budget Allocations - December 2007*. This document was given to Executive Appropriations during their December meeting. It details the base budget allocations to the Subcommittees. There is a one-time funding of \$22,347,000 to Public Education, which provides the makeup of the educators' salary and bonuses. On Page 2 of the document, there is a base budget allocation of \$2.4 billion in the Education Fund and a \$11.1 allocation in the General Fund. Mr. Leishman stated that as far as state funds are concerned, the dollar amounts in this document will represent what the Subcommittee will consider over the course of this session. The last page of the document details what is in the Minimum School Program Bill. Mr. Leishman indicated that Co-Chair Last has asked for a listing of all bills that carry their own appropriation or that have fiscal impact in the education arena. A partial list was given to the Subcommittee. There are three days set aside in future meetings where the Subcommittee will discuss fiscal note bills and requests for appropriation. Co-Chair Last indicated that any appropriation requests must be in writing.

5. **Presentation of Governor's Budget Recommendations** - Michael Kjar, GOPB Analyst, presented the Governor's Budget Recommendations. The Subcommittee members received a document entitled, *Public Education, Agency Budget Overview*. Mr. Kjar discussed the highlights of the Governor's budget. Some of these highlights include the following:

- Improve educators' compensation and help attract and retain quality teachers with an increase of 7.0 percent in the WPU.
- Recruit and retain educators with \$6 million ongoing General Fund and \$20 million one-time USF.
- Maximize human resources, facilities, and student learning opportunities through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Utah Science Technology and Research (USTAR) initiatives with \$11 million ongoing USF.
- Provide resources for English Language Learners (ELL) and minority achievement with \$7.5 million ongoing USF.
- Fund phase two of a three-year project to support school transportation with \$4.5 million ongoing and \$3.5 million one-time USF.
- Improve adolescent literacy with \$3,545,000 ongoing USF.

Mr. Kjar also discussed a budget brief entitled, *Governor's Budget Recommendations, FY 2009*. The last page of this document contains an itemized detail of the Governor's budget recommendations. The document also gives a summary of funding and the details of funding. Mr. Kjar mentioned that the Governor's budget for state employees in the compensation area provides for cost-of-living adjustments of 3 percent and discretionary salary increases of 2 percent. In the market comparability adjustments, the effort that has been made in the Governor's budget is to bring those that are under market up to 75 percent of the market.

Discussion among the Subcommittee members included the topics reducing transportation costs, increasing the value of the WPU, compensation, and Optional Extended Day Kindergarten.

6. **Future Meetings/Discussion Items from Subcommittee Members** - The Subcommittee discussed some of the upcoming bills with an appropriation. Sen. Jones will have a bill on Financial Literacy, Rep. Morgan will have a bill on Class-Size Reduction, and Co-Chair Last will have a bill on obtaining software dealing with math and science for pre-kindergarten children. This software would be internet based, and results would be tracked as a pilot program.

Co-Chair Stephenson mentioned the online testing being implemented by 2009 in schools. Questions were raised in a previous meeting concerning how this testing and assessment will be made available to schools. Judy Park, USOE, stated that this office is still gathering more specific information.

MOTION: Rep. Morgan moved to adjourn.

Co-Chair Last adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair

Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair